

דעם זעלבסטעלעבן און דעם זעלבסטעלעבן

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REPORT

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1. Q. Can you furnish any information about the Frunze Agricultural Machinery Plant which has been mentioned in Soviet press dispatches?
 - A. During World War II, there was no industrial facility in Frunze devoted to the manufacturing of agricultural machinery, but I believe the plant referred to in the Soviet newspapers is a former munitions installation which comprised several normal size city blocks in the immediate neighborhood of the Pishpek railroad station. This facility was referred to as a large military factory, completely fenced, and heavily guarded. I personally have passed near the plant both in the daytime and at night, and have heard machine guns being test-fired. The factory is located in the western portion of the city near the tannery and several thousands were employed with a very high percentage of women workers. I also heard that the plant employed a small number of highly qualified engineers.
- I believe that this former munitions plant is the one which has been converted to the production of agricultural machinery, and Frunze would be an ideal location for such a factory since the surrounding land is most fertile. There is also an agricultural college located in Frunze which graduates several hundreds annually for employment on the collectives.
2. Q. Please comment on the city of Frunze with regard to climate, temperatures, precipitation, health, and sanitation.
 - A. The climate of Frunze is typically continental, very capricious, and unpredictable. The period from April through September is usually very hot with very little precipitation, and the temperature oftentimes rises to 60 degrees centigrade in the peak of the daylight hours, but the nights are reasonably cool. The winter can be most severe with temperatures reaching to 30 degrees below zero with considerable quantities of snow, which however do not remain more than a few days. The winter is quite unpredictable in that the temperature may drop below zero at night and the following mid-day be sufficiently warm to melt the snow on the ground. The area around Frunze is subject to

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slight tremors but not severe earthquakes, at least not during my four-year residence.

In the matter of diseases, malaria can best be described as everywhere, and the incidence of typhoid fever is so high that Frunze is referred to as the city of typhoid. My wife contracted typhoid despite our precaution of boiling the water and other family sanitation devices, but the Soviets have an effective program to control this disease. The public water is obtained from wells located on each street, the water is lacking in iodine which assists in the prevalence of goiters, and so far as I know the civil authorities do not test the water for purity. There is no sewerage system in Frunze and no inside toilet facilities for the masses. In the college where I taught there was one inside toilet for one thousand students, and its sanitary condition was indescribable. Public buildings, factories, and schools are provided with electricity, but the service is so extremely poor that the power is available less than 50 per cent of the time.

3. Q. What do you know about programs or people connected with the Ukrainian Physico-Technical Institute which was located in Alma Ata in 1944?
- A. I have no knowledge of this particular institute, but the city of Alma Ata served as the evacuation point for a large number of colleges displaced by the war. This city normally has 20 permanent institutions of higher learning, and the physical facilities of these colleges were employed for the temporary operation of the displaced schools. The city of Frunze is not such an important educational center as Alma Ata, yet in the former community are located a medical college, a teachers' college, an agricultural school, and a financial institute of higher learning in addition to the military training centers for air cadets, army officers, and partisan forces.

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